

# What's New in the MPDC

APRIL 15, 2002

## NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS BOOSTED AS 32 NEW OFFICERS ARE SWORN IN

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Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey joined in welcoming the MPDC's 32 newest police officers during graduation ceremonies Friday afternoon at the Voice of America Building in Southwest. The 32 new officers include 20 recruits and 12 experienced officers from other agencies hired under the Department's lateral-entry program. All 32 officers have been assigned to neighborhood patrol duties among the seven police district. Mayor Williams implored the new officers to "never forget those who have placed their faith and trust in you, and from whom you derive your authority – the residents of the District of Columbia." The Mayor said that by treating residents with respect, trust, and compassion, "they will return the favor with the type of energy and support that is the most rewarding aspect of community policing."

*As part of its ongoing campaign to boost recruitment and expand its officer corps, the MPDC is holding its 2002 Career Expo on Saturday, April 27, at the Washington Convention Center. Get the details at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/careerexpo02.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/careerexpo02.shtm)**

*In conjunction with the Career Expo, the MPDC is rolling out a new series of public service ads targeting potential officer candidates. The ads were developed pro bono by WFDC-TV, the DC area's new Univision affiliate, and will run (in both English and Spanish) on WFDC, WTTG-TV (Fox 5) and WTOP radio, all of which are donating air time.*

## OVERALL CRIME IN DC DECLINES IN MARCH

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*Reducing burglaries requires more than after-the-fact enforcement. Homeowners and apartment dwellers can do their part by following some simple safety tips, available at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm)**

Despite a sharp rise in homicides and burglaries, the overall crime rate in DC declined in March 2002, when compared with the same month last year, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Homicides, which totaled 13 in March 2001, rose to 24 last month. Burglaries rose almost 12 percent in March, and are up more than 25 percent for the first three months of the year. Total crime is largely unchanged (an increase of

two-tenths of 1 percent) during the first quarter of 2002, according to preliminary numbers. Year-to-date reductions have been recorded in sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, theft and arson. View preliminary crime statistics – for each of the seven police districts and citywide – at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm)**

*Another property crime that is on the rise this year is auto theft. The MPDC has a new program to combat auto theft called "Watch Your Car." Learn more, and register on-line, at:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm)**

## APRIL CHAMPS OF THE MPDC

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Each year, the MPDC participates in the National Night Out against crime, and hundreds of Department members devote their time and energy to the event. This past year, however, Master Patrol Officer Roger Lowery of the Second District went above and beyond the call of duty. He secured donations of food and beverages from several businesses in PSA 205, coordinated their delivery and distribution, and helped to organize a PSA 205-206 softball game that, in keeping with the theme of the evening, brought police officers and residents together. For his efforts, MPO Lowery was recently named the Departmental Officer of the Month at the April CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards ceremony, held at The Churchill Hotel on Connecticut Avenue, NW. Read about the efforts of MPO Lowery and all of the April CHAMPS winners at:

**[mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/04.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/04.shtm)**

## INDEPENDENT MONITOR SELECTED FOR MPDC'S USE-OF-FORCE AGREEMENT

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*A summary of the agreement between  
the Justice Department and the  
District of Columbia appears at:*

***[www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/  
dcssummary.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/dcssummary.htm)***

The MPDC and the US Department of Justice this past week selected Michael R. Bromwich, a partner at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, as the Independent Monitor for the MPDC. Bromwich, the former Inspector General of the Justice Department, will lead a team of lawyers, police practices experts and statisticians in monitoring implementation of a landmark use-of-force agreement reached between DC and the Justice

Department in June 2001, following an investigation conducted by the Special Litigation Section of DOJ's Civil Rights Division. The agreement provides for the Independent Monitor to review and report on the implementation of a series of reforms the MPDC has agreed to and begun to implement. These reforms are in the areas of establishing appropriate policies for the use of force, handling internal investigations of the use of force, investigating allegations of misconduct against MPDC officers, creating management and computer systems to ensure civil rights integrity, and training. Read the complete news release at:

*Part of the agreement with the  
Justice Department requires the  
MPDC to inform the public about  
procedures for reporting suspected  
incidents of police misconduct. For  
details on the Citizen Complaint  
process, click on:*

***[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/  
citizencomplaints.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm)***

**[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)**

## CHIEF RAMSEY OUTLINES MPDC'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2003

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In testimony this past week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey outlined the MPDC's proposed budget for FY 2003. Reporting that there is no "fat" in the budget, the Chief said the proposed 3 percent increase in local funding for the MPDC "reflects the realization by Mayor Williams that more than ever the citizens of the

District of Columbia need to feel safe." The proposed budget will allow the MPDC to put more officers on the street and equip them with the basic tools they need. The budget also will place civilian crime analysts in the seven police districts to support the field units, and it will provide greater security for our Public Safety Communications Center, which handles emergency and non-emergency calls for service. The proposed budget increase will cover larger expenses for fuel and phone, as well as facilities, vehicle and equipment maintenance. To read the Chief's complete testimony on the budget, go to:

*View a summary of the MPDC's proposed  
FY 2003 budget (in PDF) at:*

***[dc.gov/mayor/budget\\_2003/pdf/fa.pdf](http://dc.gov/mayor/budget_2003/pdf/fa.pdf)***

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/04/040802.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/04/040802.shtm)**

## STREET CLEANING IN DC

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Residents are reminded that scheduled residential street cleanings have resumed in DC. The Department of Public Works has announced that it will be aggressively ticketing and towing vehicles that are illegally parked on street cleaning days. For more information, call Public Works at 673-6833, or visit:

**[dpw.dc.gov/news/2002/mar/sweep\\_back.shtml](http://dpw.dc.gov/news/2002/mar/sweep_back.shtml)**

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE  
MPDC.DC.GOV**